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Their Maiden Efforts

By EDWARD ANTHONY.

(Being rhymed versions of five of the confessions of the 125 well known American authors who entertainingly describe their first literary experiences in "My Maiden Effort," published by Doubleday, Page & Co. for the Authors League of America, who will use the royalties to help needy authors. Introduction by Gelett Burgess.)

RUPERT HUGHES:

I was a tender-hearted lad,
And it would always make me sad
To see an insect, beast or bird
Abused. Whenever that occurred
I'd grab a pen and write a ditty
Requesting folks to show some pity.
And if you doubt I was some pite,
Here is a couplet that I wrote:
"Be kind, be kind! To everything
That walks on foot or soars on wing!"

ELLIS PARKER BUTLER:

'Twas "Shorty and Frankie's Adventure"—a story
I wrote as a youngster that first brought me glory.
An editor took it, but when I sought payment
(I needed the money for fodder and raiment),
The editor handed me postal cards—fifty.
I'm telling you, people, that feller was thrifty!

Despite this occurrence so very vexatious
I let out no holler (I'm not disputatious),
But took up my pen and another exciting
Romance in a couple of days I was writing.
An editor bought it but paid—(O damnation!)—
With copies (a score) of his darned publication

BOOTH TARKINGTON:

Whenever I got a
Good spanking I'd plot a
Sad pome in the days of my youth,
So that when I'd die
They would sit down and cry,
And say, "We have wronged him, forsooth!"

So sad and impassioned
Was one that I fashioned
I wept as I wrote it, I did.
Peruse it and see
If you do not agree
That I was a Hamletlike kid:

"When the soul knows but sorrow,
And birth of to-morrow
Will bring but the death of to-day,
Turns the soul to the trees,
Moving cool in the breeze
With shadows of leaves at play."

HAROLD BELL WRIGHT:

A realistic classic I created
In which the plain unvarnished truth I state;
I wrote about a wretched chap who wooed
The bottle and was very often stewed.
To make my picture real I made the fellow
Reel, as the average toper does when mellow
With many steins of foaming lager ale.
The editor to whom I took the tale
Accepted it, but made the stipulation
That there would have to be an operation,
And taking up his editorial dagger,
Announced, "I cannot let your drunkard stagger!
My readers (gentle folk) would be offended
By that." And, lo! the tottering was ended.
How nice, despite my hero's load of beer,
It was to see his stumbling disappear!
A souse like that deserves to have his name
Emblazoned in the Alcoholic of Fame!

IRVIN S. COBB:

I started as cartoonist on
A sheet called *Texas Siftings*. (Gone
Forever is that paper dear
That launched my infamous career.)
Pictures I drew but salary none,
And while I found it heaps of fun
To see my drawings in the journal,
I found starvation an infernal
Nuisance. I hocked my brush and bought
A pen, and with my gems of thought
Assailed the editors till they,
Wearied of chasing me away,
(I was too fat to throw downstairs)
Succumbed and purchased of my wares.

Nature and Outdoors.

SOME FISH AND SOME FISHING—By Frank Gray Griswold. Lane. WILD BROTHER: STRANGEST OF TRUE STORIES FROM THE NORTH WOODS—By William Lyman Underwood. Atlantic Monthly Press.

Illustrated Editions.

HELEN'S BABIES—By John Habberton. A memorial edition. Stewart Kidd.

Verses.

MELODIES AND MOUNTAINEERS—By Isabella McLennan McKeekin. CHILDREN OF GOD AND WINGED THINGS—By Anne Moore. Four Seas. WILLOW POLLEN—By Jeannette Marks. Four Seas.

Religion and Philosophy.

YOUR INVISIBLE POWER—By Genevieve Behrend. New York: The School of the Builders, Inc.

Miscellaneous.

HISTORIC HOUSES OF SOUTH CAROLINA—By Harriette Kershaw Lelting. Lippincott. BREAKING INTO THE MOVIES—By John Emerson and Anita Loos. McCann. THE MAKING OF A MAN: LETTERS FROM A FATHER TO HIS SON AT SCHOOL—By Joseph H. Appel. Thomas Selzer.

Works and Ways Of the Authors

Margaret Widdemer in Jail! The rumor goes that it was Henry Holt & Co. who sent her there. And no one knows how to get her out! It all happened in this way. Before Christmas publishers sometimes receive requests from prisons for slightly damaged books to help fill their libraries. Henry Holt & Co. were rather startled when they found that their shipping clerk had sent to a Texas reformatory such titles as Margaret Widdemer's "You're Only Young Once," Mercier's "Crime and Criminals," Updegraff's "Strayed Revelers," &c. Such is the irony of prison reform.

President Harding, in a recent visit to Joel Chandler Harris's old home, "The Wren's Nest," paid a simple and telling tribute to the originator of the "Uncle Remus" stories: "Better a group of unselfish lovers of men like Joel Chandler Harris than a parliament full of political experts and economic authorities."

Claud Lovat Fraser, the young English artist whose designs and illustrations for the beautiful edition of "The Beggar's Opera" (Doubleday, Page) was one of the last things that he completed before his untimely death last summer, had several unusual hobbies. "One of them," says his brother-in-law, Dr. Crawford of Yale University, "was collecting rare editions of the seventeenth century poets; another was collecting toys from all over the world. His studio contained cabinets stuffed with quaint toys. He also collected eighteenth century note and commonplace books, using the blank pages of their excellent rag paper for little drawings and sketches. His studio contained several chests full of genuine eighteenth and early nineteenth century costumes." Fraser was well versed in the history of costume, and in his designs for the theatre was never content with less than absolute truth to period. But, as in "The Beggar's Opera," he did not confine himself to copying detail, but sought rather to recreate the spirit of the period.

CHARLES G. NORRIS has written a "big" novel

GERTRUDE ATHERTON praises it as "of a very high order. . . I do not think there is a doubt of the enormous success of the book."

ZONA GALE says: "It handles its human beings—and they are human—with that directness, and honesty, which more than any one quality the American novel has lacked."

FANNY HURST thinks that "it rides Norris into the rank of foremost American novelists."

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RUPERT HUGHES says: "It is a 'criticism of life' of amazing truth, bravery and vividness."

ARTHUR T. VANCE wrote: "I sat up until after one o'clock to finish 'Brass.' It is fine work."

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Autumn

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